



ROCK RIVER FREE CLINIC

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

1541 ANNEX ROAD, JEFFERSON, WI 53549

920-674-7442

The mission of the Rock River Free Clinic is to provide access to free health services through health professionals dedicated to caring for low income and uninsured individuals.

Message from the Medical Director

Since January, 2012, the Rock River Free Clinic has been a full-time service to citizens of Jefferson County who do not have access to basic health care due to lack of insurance and low income. The change to a full-time clinic has increased the availability and continuity of medical care that we provide. We continue to have access to laboratory and medical imaging services through Fort HealthCare. We also have greater access to specialty care from Fort Medical Group doctors and other health care professionals within Fort HealthCare. This expansion of medical services has been an exciting development for the Rock River Free Clinic. I am optimistic about our continued role as a medical safety net for those most in need in Jefferson County.

David Rutledge, MD, Medical Director and Clinic Physician

2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Rutledge, MD, Medical Director

Janet Werner, Chair	Paul Hable, Vice-Chair
Kim Lopez, Secretary	Barb Dehnert, Treasurer
Barry Cash, MD	Gretchen Geist, RN, MSN
Shar Gleisner, LPN	Joann Miller, JD
Jeanette Nelson-Milleson, RN, MSN	Kim Propp
Luke Walsh	Michael Wallace
Gail Scott, RN, BSN, Jefferson County Health Department Liaison	

2012 VOLUNTEERS

Barb Dehnert	Judy Hack	Jane Arbet-Meyers	Elisa Talbot
Bob DeWolfe	Cathy Krahn Horton	Jeanette Nelson-Milleson	Anne Wanke
Jane Fischer	Ryan Hughson	Barb Russell	Mary Jane Carter Wise
Gretchen Geist	Breah Klemp	Jan Rutledge	Experience Works Staff:
Dave Hack	Judy Lembrich	Linda Smith	Betty Resop

NEW CLINIC PARTNERSHIP

On March 6, 2003, Rock River Free Clinic (RRFC) opened to provide medical care to low-income, uninsured individuals and families through volunteer medical professionals. Over the years the clinic has delivered life saving care to many individuals. From 2003 to 2012, the clinic was open one night per week and staffed by volunteer physicians, nurses, social workers, interpreters, pharmacists and clerical staff.



In 2011, the RRFC Board of Directors, Board of Health and Fort HealthCare discussed ways to assure that the Clinic was able to meet the health care needs of low-income, uninsured residents of the Jefferson County area. They concluded that the clinic would greatly benefit from a full time physician, funded through Fort HealthCare, and a full-time Licensed Practical Nurse, funded through RRFC and hired by Jefferson County Health Department.

Starting in January 2012, this unique partnership between Fort HealthCare, RRFC and Jefferson County Health Department, allowed for the clinic to be open 4.5 days per week and staffed by Dr. David Rutledge, who is employed by Fort HealthCare, and Bonnie Peot, LPN, employed by Jefferson County Health Department with funds from RRFC. This has greatly increased the capacity of the clinic and has improved clinic access and continuity of care. From 2011 to 2012 the number of patients increased from 479 to 1,005 and the number of clinic visits increased from 1,210 in 2011 to 3,235 in 2012.

Pictured are Dr. David Rutledge and Bonnie Peot, LPN.

REGISTERED NURSE WORKGROUP

The Registered Nurse (RN) Work Group was formed in January 2012 by Gretchen Geist, RN, MSN and Jeannette Nelson-Milleson, RN, MSN to integrate the clinic's Registered Nurse volunteers as part of the RRFC health care team during a time of transition in the clinic model. The four goals of the group are to:

- ❖ provide patient-centered, quality care for clients in a setting they trust;
- ❖ strengthen health literacy—the ability to obtain, process, and use health information;
- ❖ improve health outcomes for clients;
- ❖ reduce inappropriate Emergency Department use.

The first major accomplishment for 2012 was the successful application for a Tomorrow's Hope grant, which was written with the assistance of and presented by members of the work group.

The second accomplishment was the diabetes education survey, which was recently completed and showed that the majority of clients contacted would be interested in meeting with a nurse educator for managing their diabetes. Several barriers to diabetes instruction were also identified which will help the group in designing programs.

The RN's have met with nursing leaders at Fort HealthCare to achieve a closer alliance between the free clinic and case managers, Emergency Department manager and diabetes educators.

In addition to developing teaching projects, the group provided time-off staffing for the paid clinic LPN and regularly covered the reception desk. The RN's also represented the free clinic, along with other Board members, at events with United Way and Tomorrow's Hope.

CLINIC SERVICES

- ▶ Physical assessments
- ▶ Care for chronic and acute diseases
- ▶ Health education
- ▶ Laboratory and radiology testing
- ▶ Prescription medications
- ▶ Referrals to other medical providers
- ▶ Referrals to community resources
- ▶ Specialty care is offered through a referral

In 2012, 77% of the visits were for the management of chronic diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, asthma, hypertension; 23% for treatment of acute diseases such as respiratory infections.

2012 CLINIC STATISTICS

Patient eligibility = uninsured and income 200% of poverty level or less.

2011 Total Patients (Unduplicated Count) = 479 (221 new)

Total Patient Clinic Visits = 1,210

2012 Total Patients (Unduplicated Count) = 1,005 (666 new)

Total Patient Clinic Visits = 3,235

CITY	#	CITY	#	CITY	#
Cambridge	15	Johnson Creek	29	Watertown	15
Fort Atkinson	332	Lake Mills	71	Whitewater	157
Helenville	11	Palmyra	39	Other	37
Ixonia	3	Sullivan	32	Total	1,005
Jefferson	237	Waterloo	27		

AGE	2012	AGE	2012	AGE	2012
Under 18	69	25 – 34	214	45 – 64	382
18 – 24	105	35 – 44	208	65+	27

2012 INCOME

Jefferson County	\$50,000	Community Donations	\$13,543
United Way of Jeff. & N. Wal. Co.	\$17,475	Interest	\$111
Tomorrow's Hope	\$5,000		
		Total Income	\$86,129

2012 EXPENSES

Contracted Services	\$38,151	Equipment/Software	\$506
Medications & Medical Supplies	\$155,259	Operational Expenses	\$805
		Total Expenses	\$194,721
		Carryover from 2011	\$174,591
		Net Surplus	\$65,999

DONATION OF CLINIC SPACE, LAB AND X-RAY SERVICES

Fort HealthCare – 2,587 Laboratory tests (\$296,978) & 150 Radiology procedures (\$145,000);
Physician and support services

Jefferson County Health Department - Clinic space and support services.



DEDICATION

The 2012 Annual Report is gratefully dedicated to Barb Dehnert for her 10+ years of service to the clinic and leadership on the Board of Directors. Barb was a member of the original free clinic feasibility study committee that assembled talented public health and private sector providers to look at a way to deliver health care to low-income uninsured individuals. This committee worked tirelessly for a year, with Barb providing financial and clinic operations guidance, to develop the clinic.

Not only did Barb serve as the Treasurer of the free clinic Board of Directors, but she also volunteered countless hours of service, both at the clinic and on her own time, managing clinic operations as well as paying bills, writing grants and forming partnerships with other free clinics, donors, community organizations, medical providers, hospitals and local pharmacies. Barb facilitated follow-up services and arranged referrals, surgeries and other needed care for patients and answered patient questions when the clinic was not open.

The Rock River Free Clinic Board thanks Barb for being the “heart and soul” of the clinic.

She will be dearly missed by the Board, the staff, volunteers and patients. The Board wishes Barb a happy and well deserved retirement.

